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Index: Benefits

TO: ALL COUNTY CALIFORNIA CHILDREN SERVICES (CCS)  
ADMINISTRATORS, MEDICAL DIRECTORS AND MEDICAL  
CONSULTANTS, AND STATE CHILDREN MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS)  
BRANCH STAFF

SUBJECT: UNIQUE CCS AID CODES FOR CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN THE  
PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE WAIVER

The purpose of this Numbered Letter (NL) is to provide policy for the assignment of two new unique CCS aid codes (9V and 9W) to be assigned to CCS eligible children participating in the Pediatric Palliative Care Waiver (PPCW) pilot project.

### **Background**

Pediatric palliative care, like hospice care, seeks to make patients comfortable and manage the pain and symptoms produced by a life-threatening medical condition. Pediatric palliative care programs have demonstrated that when children and their families receive hospice and palliative care services, quality of life of the child and family is improved, the number of medical transports, emergency room visits, and hospital stays are reduced, and quality of care delivered is improved.

AB 1745 (Chapter 330, Statutes of 2006) requires the Department of Health Care Services to develop and implement a pediatric palliative care pilot project that allows an eligible child and the child's family to receive palliative care services while concurrently pursuing curative treatment for the child's condition. The PPCW will provide palliative care services to full-scope, no share-of-cost, Medi-Cal eligible children, under 21 years of age, with a California Children's Services (CCS) eligible life-threatening medical condition, and their families. These children will continue to receive medically necessary services already available as state plan services.

The project will be phased in over a three year period. Enrollment in the waiver will grow from 300 participants in five counties in the first year of operation to 1802 participants in 13 counties in the third year. Participating counties are:

Year 1: Alameda, Monterey, San Diego, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz

Year 2: Counties from Year 1 and adding Humboldt, Marin, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco and Sonoma

Year 3: Counties from Years 1 and 2 and adding Fresno and Los Angeles

### **Policy**

The criteria for assignment of the pilot project aid codes are as follows:

#### Aid Code 9V

- The child is currently enrolled in Medi-Cal with a full-scope, no share-of-cost aid code.
- The child is medically eligible for CCS but has not completed CCS program enrollment requirements.
- The child has been determined to be eligible for enrollment in the PPCW pilot project.
- The family has not completed CCS program eligibility. (The child will not be eligible for waiver services or state plan services if eligibility for Medi-Cal terminates.)

#### Aid Code 9W

- The child is currently enrolled in Medi-Cal with a full-scope, no share-of-cost aid code.
- The child is medically eligible for CCS and has completed CCS program enrollment requirements.
- The child has been determined eligible for enrollment in the PPCW pilot project.

- The family has completed CCS program eligibility. (If Medi-Cal is lost, the child will lose waiver benefits but will continue to be eligible for state/county funded state plan services.)

Most PPCW pilot project eligible children are already known to CCS and are assigned an existing CCS aid code in addition to a Medi-Cal aid code. The CMS Net system currently allows the assignment of one CCS aid code per child. If a child participating in the pilot project is already a CCS client, a new pilot project aid code will replace the child's previously assigned CCS aid code.

### **Implementation**

The PPCW pilot project was implemented on October 1, 2009. County CCS programs participating in the pilot project will assign a pilot project aid code to each participating child, in conjunction with the child's primary Medi-Cal full-scope, no share-of-cost aid code. The loss of full-scope, no share-of-cost Medi-Cal for a child enrolled in the pilot project will result in termination of enrollment of the child in the pilot project. If a child participating in the pilot project and assigned Aid Code 9W loses full scope, no share-of-cost Medi-Cal, the local CCS program is responsible for end-dating the child's pilot project CCS aid code and assigning an appropriate CCS program aid code to the child.

Local programs will be notified by Medi-Cal eligibility alerts and CCS reports if a child's Medi-Cal eligibility terminates.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Jo Monday at (916) 327-3024.

Luis R. Rico, Acting Chief  
Children's Medical Services Branch